(b) if so, the details thereof and Bangladesh Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to persuade the Government of Bangladesh to take effective action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) During the Director General-level talks between Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles held on 28 October to 2 November 2002 in New Delhi, Director General, BSF had handed over a list of 99 training camps of North East insurgents in Bangladesh to Director General, Bangladesh Rifles for taking action. Director General, Bangladesh Rifles reiterated that the Government of Bangladesh does not harbour nor provide support to any insurgent in any form to operate from Bangladesh against India. Both the Directors General agreed to cooperate fully in taking deterrent action against insurgents on their side so that tangible results are visible on the ground.

(c) The Government of India has been regularly taking up these security-related issues with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The Government would continue to engage Government of Bangladesh in this regard.

Regional dialogue with U.S.A.

1702. DR.TSUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have started a new regional dialogue on a wide range of issues;

(b) if so, whether the purpose of the dialogue was the U.S. role in Asia was expanding and India wanted more information about Washington's plans and what it was doing;

(c) whether India is satisfied with the talks held with U.S.; and

(d) if so, the details of the discussion held between the two countries uptill now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) The Dialogue serves as an institutional forum for regular consultations between India and the United States on developments in India's extended neighbourhood and represents another step in fulfilling the commitment of the Prime Minister and the U.S. President to strengthen the strategic framework of India-U.S. relations.

(c)Yes.

(d)The first India-U.S. Regional Dialogue was held on 24-25 September 2002.The two sides exchanged views on the current and long-term political, economic and security issues in the region.

Neighbourhood economic policy

1703. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is working on a neighbourhood economk: policy;

(b) if so, the details of the policy and in what way it is different from the usual foreign policy; and

(c) the countries those are being associated in the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS {SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government's objective remains to strengthen mutually beneficial trade and economic linkages with all our neighbours, both, through bilateral initiatives, as well as through relevant regional cooperation mechanisms. Policies are constantly finetuned to subserve this objective.

Venue of SAARC summit

1704. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the next meetings of the SAARC is going to be held in Islamabad in January, 2003;